

Downey's Mother Returns To Hong Kong After Visit

Special to The New York Times
HONG KONG, May 28 — John

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Downey, one of four Americans imprisoned in Communist China, is passing his time by studying Russian, his mother reported today.

Mrs. Mary Downey of New Britain, Conn., returned to Hong Kong today accompanied by another son, William, after visiting John in prison in Peiping. It was her third trip to Communist China to see John, who has been sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of espionage.

She said she had received no indication that her son would be released. However, Red Cross officials, the only Chinese authorities she was permitted to see, had told her Chinese officials were "lenient toward prisoners who behaved well."

May 28, 1962

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(TEXT) HONG KONG, 28 MAY -- MRS. MARY DOWNEY, GREY-HAIRED AMERICAN MOTHER, CROSSED THE CHINESE BORDER INTO HONG KONG TODAY ON HER WAY HOME TO NEW BRITAIN, CONN., AFTER A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO HER SON JOHN IN A PEKING PRISON. JOHN DOWNEY, IN JAIL SINCE 1952, IS SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES. MRS. DOWNEY, 65, WHO WAS MAKING HER THIRD VISIT TO PEKING, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ANOTHER SON, WILLIAM.

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